

Ibn Ali sacks party's old guard

AMMAN (R) — Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali purged the political bureau all but three who served under deposed head of state Habib Bourguiba. The three who remain are Prime Minister Hedi Chacouche, the party's secretary-general, Hamed Karoui, its director, and Defence Minister Slaheddine Baly. PSD treasurer, the official news agency TAP said. Those fired from the new political bureau — which is from 20 to 12 members — include Mr. Bourguiba's son, former Foreign Minister Habib Bourguiba Junior. Three ex-cabinet ministers who were sacked by his 84-year-old father, who was deposed on Nov. 7 after being declared senile, were sacked from the bureau nearly three weeks ago. They have been under house arrest since the takeover. Newcomers to the political bureau include Interior Minister Habib Ammar and Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri. TAP said Mr. Ibn Ali remains PSD president, despite calls from opposition parties for the head of state to relinquish any party post.

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Israeli soldier killed in S. Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli soldier was killed and a second wounded on Tuesday when their armoured personnel carrier drove over a mine in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in southern Lebanon, the army said. The blast occurred in the central sector of the zone, north west of Bint Jbeil, a spokeswoman said. In a separate incident, militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) repelled a guerrilla attack, also in the central sector of the "security zone," sources said. The SLA militiamen found missiles and rocket-propelled grenades in the area of the clash and blood stains suggesting some guerrillas had been injured, they added. Israel withdrew most of its troops from Lebanon in June 1985, three years after it invaded the country. Several hundred Israeli soldiers remained to patrol the "security zone" with the SLA.

rown Prince receives cable of thanks from Ozal

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday received a cable from Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal in reply to a congratulatory note the Crown Prince sent him on the occasion of his relection for a second term. In the cable, Mr. Ozal thanked His Highness for his kind message of congratulations and said expressively his conviction that the friendly relations and cooperation on all levels between Jordan and Turkey would continue to grow and flourish. The Turkish premier also added Prince Hassan continued to health, happiness and prosperity and well-being for the people of Jordan.

Highness Crown Prince

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday received a reply cable from Akef Al Fayed, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, thanking him for a congratulatory note over the successful operation he underwent in the U.S. Al Fayed also wished the Crown Prince continued good health and happiness.

1st appeal turned down

AMMAN (Petra) — An appeal for pardon by Mathias Rust, the German pilot who landed in the Kremlin last May, has been turned down, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuri Gremik said on Tuesday. "His request was 'reviewed. The answer was negative," Gremik told a news conference. At 19, he had appealed for pardon to the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet, the highest state body, after being sentenced in October to four years in a camp for hooliganism and violating flight and border laws.

S. air crash was part of murder plot

AMMAN (Petra) — A disgruntled employee of a murder-suicide mission may have caused the crash of a Pacific Northwest Airlines (PSA) plane that killed 43 people, ABC News said on Tuesday. Reporter Tom Selleck said authorities had found suicide note left by a disgruntled employee of U.S. Air, the airline, who said he was aiding the aircraft with a gun and killing a supervisor who was selling on the plane on today.

Highness Crown Prince's father is in W. Bank

CAPTURED JERUSALEM (R) — Bishara Sirhan, the father of the Bishara Sirhan who assassinated U.S. presidential hopeful Robert Kennedy, died last week in his home village of Taibe on occupied West Bank. Palestinian sources said on Tuesday that Sirhan, who was in his 80s, emigrated to the United States in the late 1950s. His wife and their children later joined him in the U.S. but after he left them to return to West Bank. He was in the West Bank in 1968 when his son was killed. Robert Kennedy, the son of assassinated President Kennedy, in a California prison.

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Superpowers sign INF treaty

Gorbachev and Reagan launch their third summit with expressions of high hopes for better East-West relations and end to arms race

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan on Tuesday signed a treaty abolishing medium-range missiles on the first day of a summit aimed at achieving even more sweeping arms cuts.

The intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty signed at 2:02 p.m. (1902 GMT) would destroy in three years some 2,800 missiles with 3,800 warheads, mainly based in Europe.

The president and the Kremlin leader entered the East Room of the White House for the ceremony with a band playing "Hail to the Chief," the anthem of U.S. presidents, and after brief speeches they signed their names 16 times to the treaty in a ceremony attended by top U.S. and Soviet officials.

Mr. Reagan, with a smiling Mr. Gorbachev at his side, quoted several times from Russian proverbs and declared of the treaty: "We made this impossible

vision a reality."

He added that although strong differences remain between the two countries, "we see what can be accomplished when we pull together."

Mr. Gorbachev said: "We can be proud of planting this sapling which one day may grow into a mighty tree of peace... but it is probably too early to bestow laurels on each other."

"May Dec. 8, 1987 become a date that will be inscribed in the history books, a date that will mark the watershed separating the era of mounting risk of nuclear war from the era of the demilitarisation of human life."

The signing of the treaty, one copy in Russian and the other in



Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan sign a treaty on Tuesday banning intermediate-range nuclear missiles

English, took place with hundreds of dignitaries and reporters looking on. In the audience were U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who negotiated much of the treaty.

Following the signing, the two leaders stood to the sound of applause and exchanged the leather-bound documents, shaking

hands warmly.

Leaders of the U.S. Senate must ratify the American adherence to the accord before it can take effect.

Also watching were Mr. Gorbachev's wife, Raisa, and Mr. Reagan's wife, Nancy.

Under terms of the accord, the United States will over three years scrap 396 Pershing 2 and

cruise missiles deployed in West Germany, Britain, Italy and Belgium, and the Soviets will destroy 803 rockets, about 50 of which are in East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

"The importance of this treaty transcends numbers," said Mr. Reagan. "This agreement contains the most stringent verification procedures in arms-control history."

He said the accord protects America's friends and allies and that it could be a starting point for approaching other concerns of the superpowers — strategic weapons, the balance of conventional forces in Europe, regional conflicts and human rights.

Mr. Gorbachev called for the leaders to continue moving towards "an era of demilitarisation of human life."

Earlier Tuesday, Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Reagan held the first round of their summit conference on Tuesday, saying they intended to make progress to cutting their long-range nuclear

(Continued on page 3)

Police nab 3-man gang behind murder of moneymen and JD 100,000 robbery

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A three-man gang responsible for the murder of a moneymen in Amman five months ago has been arrested and the criminals have confessed to the killing and armed robbery, the Public Security Department (PSD) announced Tuesday.

Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Majali, director-general of the PSD, speaking at a press conference to announce the arrest and details of the crime, identified the three as Ahmad Salem, 22, Nasser Ali, 28, and Ahmad Shitwi, 24. Lt.-Gen. Majali said that while Salem was the "mastermind" behind the crime, Shitwi provided the getaway car and Ali was the actual killer.

Moheiddin Al Bashiti, 22, a Jordanian moneymen, was shot dead in the Jabal Hussein area on July 6, 1987, as he was leaving home for work carrying about JD 100,000 in Jordanian

and foreign currency. First reports had indicated that it was the work of a lone gunman who fled with the bag carrying the money. It was the first reported armed robbery in the Kingdom.

According to earlier reports, Mr. Bashiti resisted the assailant and in the ensuing struggle the criminal shot him. The young businessman was struck by at least four of the five bullets fired, according to police reports at the time.

Lt.-Gen. Majali told Tuesday's press conference that the stolen money had not been recovered, but "all conclusive evidence" had been collected by police before they made the arrest. The PSD chief revealed that the gang had burned the bag which contained the money and the shirt that the murderer was wearing at the time of the crime.

The money was shared among the three, Lt.-Gen. Majali said. One of them got married, another bought himself a car while the third criminal bought



A police photograph of the three men who have confessed to the July 6, 1987 murder of Mr. Mohammad Bashiti

some sheep to raise, Lt.-Gen. Majali said.

Explaining the background of the crime, Lt.-Gen. Majali said it was premeditated. First, the three planned to stage an armed attack on Mr. Bashiti's

(Continued on page 3)

Seoul seeks extradition of KAL mystery woman

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — A South Korean envoy arrived in Bahrain on Tuesday to seek extradition of a mystery woman. Seoul officials suspect of planting a bomb on a Korean jet missing with 115 people aboard.

Assistant Foreign Minister Park Soo-Gil was due to meet senior officials to discuss the extradition of the Asian woman held on an island prison off Bahrain.

South Korean officials believe the woman, who swallowed a cyanide capsule after her arrest but survived, is one of two North Korean agents they suspect of planting a bomb on the plane, which vanished on Nov. 29.

The woman and the other suspected agent, an elderly Asian man, were held at Bahrain airport as they tried to leave for Rome on Dec. 1. The man died after taking cyanide.

The pair, carrying false Japanese passports, left the Korean Air Lines (KAL) Boeing 707 in Abu Dhabi hours before it vanished over the Thai-Burmese border. Searches have found no trace of the aircraft.

The woman has yet to be identified and has refused to speak to Japanese, South Korean and Bahrain investigators. Japanese officials who talked to her companion before her arrest said he spoke fluent Japanese.

Evidence against the woman so far appears circumstantial, but diplomatic sources said Tokyo also thought she and her companion were North Korean agents.

Bahraini authorities want to resolve the case but officials said an extradition request must be backed by solid evidence.

North Korea has denied any connection with the disappearance of the airliner and said the suspects in Bahrain were obviously

Iranian agents.

It was the first time Iran claims the use of the shoulder-fired projectile against Iraqi aircraft in the seven-year-old war.

Iran's powerful parliament speaker, Hashemi Rafsanjani, was quoted as saying a major Iranian offensive against Iraq could be launched anytime and anywhere along the front, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Iraqi jets scored "accurate and effective hits against a very big naval target," usually signifying a tanker, at 1:40 p.m. (1040 GMT).

Lloyds, which monitors shipping worldwide, said the Al Amoot, an Iranian steam tanker, was hit in the Iraqi strike while ferrying oil from the key Kharg Island oil terminal in the northern Gulf to Larak Island facility in the Strait of Hormuz.

It was hit south of the Iranian

port of Bushehr and less than 30 kilometres off Iran's northern coast.

The tanker is part of Iran's shuttle tanker fleet which ferries oil from Kharg, which is bombed by the Iraqis almost daily, to safer terminals in the south. It was hit in an Iraqi raid on Feb. 1.

INA said the attack was in line with "Iraq's resolve to cut off the economy and oil resources of the criminal Iranian regime."

It was the sixth attack on Iranian shipping reported by Iraq in 10 days, two of which were confirmed by Lloyds.

A tanker set on fire just outside the Gulf in a retaliatory Iranian attack two days ago is starting to break up and will probably be a total loss, shipping sources said.

They said the 85,129-tonne Norman Atlantic, registered in Singapore, was bending badly and would probably start cracking soon under heat estimated at around 2,000-3,000 degrees Centigrade (3,600-5,400 F).

"Her shape is beginning to alter," one source told Reuter. "She will break up but it's a slow process."

The sources said earlier they believed the Norman Atlantic would be the first vessel destroyed by Iran since its war with Iraq spilled over into Gulf shipping lanes in 1981.

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraqi planes strafe Iranian tanker

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraqi warplanes attacked an Iranian shuttle tanker in the Gulf on Tuesday, and Lloyds shipping intelligence identified the vessel as the 317,824-tonne Al Amoot.

Iraq claimed its ground units on Monday shot down two Soviet-built Iraqi jet fighters, one with a U.S.-made Stinger missile. Iraq denied the loss of any aircraft.

It was the first time Iran claims the use of the shoulder-fired projectile against Iraqi aircraft in the seven-year-old war.

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Genscher hopes for superpower moves to resolve Mideast problems

CAIRO (R) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said on Tuesday, after talks with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, he hoped the superpower summit would help find solutions to Middle East regional problems.

Mr. Genscher, on a 24-hour visit to Egypt, told reporters he and President Mubarak discussed bilateral economic and political ties and "the serious international issues."

Both leaders hoped the Washington summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would "lead to further progress on arms reduction and serve to further rapprochement in... regional problems," he said.

He mentioned only efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Genscher said West Germany would support all efforts in this direction, including those by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to get a Gulf war ceasefire resolution adopted last July.

INA said the attack was in line with "Iraq's resolve to cut off the economy and oil resources of the criminal Iranian regime."

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Israelis maintain curfew on Gaza

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (Agencies) — Israeli troops maintained a curfew on Gaza City for the third consecutive day on Tuesday following the killing of a Jewish settler in the occupied Gaza Strip by Palestinian activists.

Mr. Genscher, on a 24-hour visit to Egypt, told reporters he and President Mubarak discussed bilateral economic and political ties and "the serious international issues."

The King was received upon his arrival at and departure from Medina by Governor Prince Abdul Majid ibn Abdul Aziz of Medina and other senior Saudi officials.

The King was received upon his return home by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Cabinet members and other senior officials.

At the summit the King crowned his efforts at mediating differences between Syria and Iraq by arranging a meeting between President Hafez Al Assad of Syria and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq on the fringes of

the King's talks with King Fahd.

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Paris expels exiled Iranians to Gabon

PARIS (Agencies) — France expelled 17 exiled opponents of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to the West African state of Gabon on Tuesday as part of efforts to improve ties with Iran.

The Interior Ministry said the 14 Iranians and three Turks were all members or sympathizers of the People's Mujahedeen organization, a Baghdad-based guerrilla group fighting the Tehran government.

The Mujahedeen denounced the arrest of the 17 on Monday as payment by France of a "ransom" for the release last month of two French hostages in Beirut by a pro-Iranian underground group.

The Interior Ministry said nine other Mujahedeen members living in France — eight Iranians and one Turk — were forbidden to leave their place of residence.

In a statement, it said the expulsions were rushed through "for pressing reasons of national security".

"Their activities in our country constituted an immediate and grave threat to public order and harmed France's interests in the world," it said.

Mujahedeen leader Massoud Rajavi, who was himself forced to leave France for Baghdad in June last year, denounced the detention of his supporters as part of an "ugly deal" with Tehran.

The government of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac has denied paying any ransom for the release of hostages Roger Aude and Jean-Louis Normandie, but it acknowledges it is seeking to improve ties with Iran.

A week after the hostages' release, France allowed Iranian embassy official Vahid Gordji, wanted for questioning about bombings which killed 13 people in Paris last year, to leave the country after a summary appearance before a French magistrate. France has, close ties with

Gabon, a former colony on the west coast of Africa, and has expelled Spanish Basque refugees there by agreement with President Omar Bongo.

In general, expellees leave Gabon as soon as they can find a country closer to home to live in.

The U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) said in Geneva on Tuesday it had contacted the French Foreign Ministry to seek assurances France would respect the rights of the Iranian exiles detained.

The Commission asked the ministry why the exiles were held and what guarantees would be given to those with refugee status.

Mr. Rajavi appealed in vain on Monday to President Francois Mitterrand to stop the expulsions.

A spokesman for the group said earlier that the 17 had started a hunger strike while Mr. Rajavi had protested to the UNHCR.

Despite denials from the French government, most commentators believe the expulsion forms part of a deal with Iran which will eventually lead to the release of the last three French hostages in Lebanon.

The Chirac government has dishonoured itself, Mujahedeen member Mohammad Ali Massoumi said at a news conference at the group's headquarters in Avers-Sur-Oise north of Paris after the expulsions were announced.

"If anything happens to them, we know who is responsible for it," said Mr. Massoumi, who said he was detained Monday by police with other Mujahedeen members, but was later released.

Iran has always demanded that Paris curb exile activities on French soil, repay the contested

loan and end its military backing for Iraq as the price for normal relations.

But Prime Minister Chirac has ruled out full ties until Iran makes sure that all French hostages held in Lebanon are released by their kidnappers.

The crackdown drew widespread criticism.

"Shame on the Chirac government, which by this unworthy gesture denies the right of asylum and makes a pact with the Khomeini dictatorship," said Jack Lang of the opposition Socialist Party.

Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, speaking at a political rally in the city of Avalon south east of Paris on Monday night, rejected the attacks.

"We have no lessons to learn from anyone," he said. "We will never accept French people being held hostage, and we will do everything in our power, without compromising ourselves, without regard to other peoples' whining."

Mr. Pasqua has said he had the key role in arranging for the Nov. 27 release of Aude and Normandin.

Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, has been held the longest. He was kidnapped in Beirut on March 16, 1985.

Disputes at the five-day congress, which opened on Sunday, boiled over briefly into fist fights as rightists furious at the allegations demanded an apology be made to Israel's chief rabbis.

Speakers deplored orthodox Judaism's monopoly on religious affairs in Israel and efforts by religious parties to restrict the definition of "who is a Jew" and to ban entertainment on the Jewish sabbath.

"Messianic politics is madness," declared Rabbi Arthur Herzberg, a senior leader of liberal Jews in the United States, to applause.

He said that if the religious parties were not prepared to be pragmatic, there would have to be a complete separation of synagogue and state.

Veteran religious politician Yosef Burg, a minister in Israeli governments for more than 30 years until he retired last year, was jeered when he criticised a coalition between the Labour Party and liberal and reform Jews at the congress.

Fist fights broke out on the conference floor when a rightist liberal Israeli delegate, Uzi Cohen, demanded that the conference apologise to Israel's chief rabbi.

Security men grabbed young rightist delegates and the chairman silenced Cohen.

Ruth Popkin, a reform Jew and head of the powerful American women's Zionist organisation Hadassah, complained: "The first thing that happens when we arrive in Israel is that we are attacked."

The plan has been blocked by Peres' coalition partner and political rival, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the staunchly conservative Likud Bloc.

Conference participants would include the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France.

The plan has been blocked by Peres' coalition partner and political rival, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the staunchly conservative Likud Bloc.

Christie allegedly acted as a go-between for the Smiths, who operated a Louisiana oil supply company, and the Libyans through his Scotland-based petrochemical equipment distributing firm, Christie Noble Services Ltd.

Rains kill 5 troops in Beirut barracks

BEIRUT (R) — Torrential rains undermined a military barracks in east Beirut on Tuesday bringing it crashing down onto sleeping soldiers, killing five and injuring three.

Army Commander Gen. Michel Aoun supervised rescue workers who dragged the bodies of the military policemen from the rubble at the flooded Jisr Al Basha barracks after dawn.

Lightning hit the transmitters of Falangist Voice of Lebanon radio, knocking it briefly off the air.

Zionists clash over religion and politics

TEL AVIV (R) — The 31st world Zionist congress erupted from torpor into strife on Tuesday with delegates from around the world attacking religious coercion and political patronage in Israel.

Disputes at the five-day congress, which opened on Sunday, boiled over briefly into fist fights as rightists furious at the allegations demanded an apology be made to Israel's chief rabbis.

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U.S. embargo on Iran oil having little effect

By Robert Trautman
Reuters

WASHINGTON — A United States embargo imposed on Iranian oil six weeks ago has so far had little impact on Iran's shipments, but it has forced Tehran to offer heavy price discounts, U.S. government and oil industry analysts say.

"U.S. oil purchases from Iran, even at their height last summer, were small by overall Iranian sales, and so the total U.S. embargo is not likely to hurt Iran much," said Gary Sick, an Iran scholar at the Ford Foundation.

Mr. Sick said in a telephone interview with Reuters that "the key is not whether those sanctions are going to have much impact, but whether other countries are going to join it."

So far major U.S. allies have refused to go along with the sanctions applied by President Reagan on Oct. 29.

At the time, Mr. Reagan said he was acting to retaliate for Iran's attacks on U.S. forces in the Gulf, its backing of terrorism and its refusal to accept a United Nations ceasefire in its war with Iraq. Iran relies on oil exports to finance the seven-year-old war

with Iraq.

"U.S. allies have been extremely reluctant to go along with it (the embargo)," Mr. Sick said, adding that he saw no evidence they would.

U.S. Energy Secretary John Herrington has said that, for the embargo to hurt Iran, other allies, notably Japan and Italy would have to join it and stop buying Iranian oil.

NEWS ANALYSIS

But they have not.

"The Iranians aren't having any difficulty finding buyers, although they are having trouble selling it at market prices," said one U.S. oil analyst in an interview with Reuters.

Iran is being forced to discount oil by as much as \$3 a barrel — \$2 in price and \$1 in transport costs — from a world price of \$18 to \$20 a barrel, said the analyst, who asked that his name not be used.

France, a major buyer, already had an embargo on Iranian oil, which it imposed last summer after breaking off diplomatic relations with Iran. Its action then flooded world markets with excess oil.

The French embargo was parti-

cularly effective. Iran once provided France with 15 to 20 percent of its crude, traders there say, and now no Iranian crude is being recorded as entering French ports.

Iran was forced to discount the price of its excess oil after the French move and the situation was made worse by the U.S. sanctions, oil analysts said.

Mr. Sick said that, with Franco-Iranian relations improving, France might resume buying Iran's oil.

Italy, a major importer of Iranian oil, has given it no official support and traders think it is unlikely to do so.

In Bonn, a spokesman for West Germany, which is a minor buyer of Iranian oil, said: "The government has no plans to follow the U.S. decision to put an embargo on Iranian oil. We are against embargoes."

Some British traders say the full impact of the sanctions will not be known for some weeks, when tankers of Iranian crude finish their six-week journey to Europe from the Gulf.

Herrington has suggested in recent interviews that some buyers do not want to touch Iranian oil, saying "you've got

Iranian ships sitting off Rotterdam and people asking 'whose oil is that' before they buy it."

One analyst said Iran had been dumping oil in Rotterdam and Singapore, and it was being bought by some subsidiaries of U.S. oil firms, for sale outside the United States.

He added: "If anyone knows anything about it, you can pump more Iranian crude into Europe and European crude (from the North Sea) out to the United States."

But discounting, he said, has another effect on a major buyer of Iranian crude, Japan.

Analysts in Washington and Tokyo say the Japanese have not stopped buying Iranian oil, but are demanding that Iran sell them oil at a discount, rather than at higher, previously contracted prices.

As a result, the impact of the embargo on Iran has been small, analysts say.

Said Charles Ebinger, an oil analyst with the consulting firm of Putnam, Hayes and Bartlett: "Iran's income has been hurt, but it's minuscule. They seem to have sold the oil that they couldn't sell to the United States."

Arafat, Goulding discuss Mideast peace

TUNIS (R) — PLO leader Yasir Arafat has held talks with a top United Nations envoy on a proposed Middle East peace conference, the Palestinian News Agency WAFA said on Tuesday.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader returned to his Tunis headquarters from North Yemen on Monday to meet U.N. Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding, it said.

Mr. Goulding also met Arab League Assistant Secretary-General Adnan Omran.

In Cairo, Mr. Goulding had talks on Monday with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Maguid as part of a Middle East tour to assess prospects for an international conference on peace in the region.

"We are trying to push the peace process," the Secretary General (Javier Perez de Cuellar) said.

EC Commission opens contacts in Turkey

ANKARA (Agencies) — The European Community (EC) Commission opened contacts with Turkey on Tuesday following Ankara's application last April for full EC membership, Commission sources said.

A two-man team headed by Jean-Joseph Schwed, head of the Commission's North Mediterranean Division, met businessmen in Istanbul before talks with officials in Ankara.

The sources said the three-day talks, the first since Turkey's application, would be largely technical to help prepare a report for the Commission.

Turkey's Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, returned to power in a general election on Nov. 29, has made EC entry the top foreign policy goal of his new term.

Mr. Ozal, who has yet to name his new cabinet, is currently in the United States, with top offi-

cials, for talks with banks. The premier also had eye surgery in Houston on Saturday.

Mr. Schwed and assistant Michel Manceau will have talks at the Foreign and Finance ministries, and with officials at the State Planning Organisation and other departments, the sources said.

Jean Durieux, an EC administrator for Mediterranean policy and North-South relations, is due to visit Ankara next month.

Turkey's application met with a poor response from some EC members sceptical about its progress to full democracy after three military coups since 1960 and its record on human rights.

Some EC states also believe that Turkey, predominantly Muslim and straddling Asia and Europe, is not European.

Ankara signed an associate EC membership agreement in 1963.

In a separate development, police on Monday detained two defence lawyers for the two Turkish Communist leaders who were arrested after returning home from exile, the semi-official Anatolia News Agency reported.

According to the dispatch, lawyers Rasim Oz and Atilla Coskun were detained shortly after they visited the two Communist leaders at Ankara's high-security prison, their first meeting since the politicians arrived in Turkey last month.

The dispatch did not say why Mr. Oz and Mr. Coskun were detained, and prosecutors and police could not be reached for comment.

Eight other defence lawyers who attended the meeting watched as Mr. Oz and Mr. Coskun were led away from the prison by police.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

AMMAN: Dr. Ali As'ad 897919
Dr. Abdul Wahab Al Awad 846070
Dr. Bassam Al-Smadi 866778

DR ISSAM ABU RIZQ 611784
Firas pharmacy 601912
Firdous pharmacy 785126
Al Asmaa pharmacy 620555
Narashki pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636370

TAXIS: Kavala taxi 636730
Taxina taxi 646406
Tamer taxi 666467
Raghdan taxi 842400
Raqaq taxi 736428
Sayed taxi 776131

IRBID: Dr. Ali Al Omari 272032
Fuad pharmacy 1-1

ZARQA: Dr. Ghassan Al Faquih 272102
Rami pharmacy 1-1

GENERAL: Jordan Television 7731119
Radio Jordan 7741119
Ministry of Tourism 642311
Hotel complaints 666454
Price complaints 666176
Telephone Information 12
Jordan and Middle East calls 10
Overseas calls 17
Repair service 674155

HOSPITALS: Hussein Medical Centre 81381352
K

Seminar on Arab pharmaceuticals industry to discuss production, controls

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day seminar on Arab pharmaceuticals due to open in Amman on Dec. 14 will discuss production of high-quality pharmaceutical products and controls over medicine production and imported medicine, according to Dr. Abdul Mutaleb Nasser, chairman of the board of directors of the Arab Federation of Producers of Drugs and Medicinal Appliances.

He told a press conference here that the seminar will also review working papers on the role of the newly-established Arab federation and its objectives and the

economics of the pharmaceuticals industry in the Arab World.

The seminar has been organised in response to a call by the Council of Arab Health Ministers, which has been supporting the pharmaceuticals industry, with the purpose of providing high-quality pharmaceutical products to the Arab people and ensuring medicine security for the Arab World, Dr. Nasser said.

More than 100 pharmacists and representatives of Arab pharmaceutical industries will be taking part in the meetings, in addition

to delegates from the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation and Swiss and American pharmaceutical companies.

The Arab Federation of Producers of Drugs and Medicinal Appliances, which is organising the seminar, was established in 1986 upon a call from the Arab health ministers. The federation, which is headquartered in Amman, groups 23 members representing medical and pharmaceutical industries in the Arab World.

Zarqa Governorate plans to build schools, increase services as population grows

By Nash'at Al Majali
Petra

ZARQA — A contract to set up 20 new schools throughout Zarqa Governorate was awarded recently, coming in line with the Ministry of Education's efforts to end the two-shift school system.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on Tuesday, Zarqa Governor Eid Qatarneh described the situation of education and the availability of schools in relation to population as "satisfactory." With a population nearing 450,000, Zarqa is the second largest governorate, after Amman.

Mr. Qatarneh, whose governorate has an agro-industrial economic base, said that plans were underway to expand the rooms in a number of existing schools and to construct modern buildings, in order to provide a suitable atmosphere conducive to attracting as many students as possible.

In his wide-ranging interview, Mr. Qatarneh talked about the governorate's water, sewerage, electricity, telecommunications and health services and discussed developments achieved in the sectors of agriculture, industry, tourism and public works.

Despite the progress achieved in all these fields and sectors, Mr. Qatarneh maintained that the citizens of the governorate, in general, and those of the city of Zarqa, in particular, "were in dire need of the best of services."

"The effects of the services offered to people here are, more or less, not evident" due to the rapid expansion in construction, an increase in population and rapid migration to the govern-

orate, as well as opening new roads and asphalt others, according to the Zarqa governor.

Mr. Qatarneh noted that committee for revitalising tourism activities in the governorate has been formed and entrusted with carrying out maintenance work on archaeological sites and discussing the possibilities of developing the area's tourist attractions.

On important and numerous agricultural projects executed during the past two years, Mr. Qatarneh pointed to the following activities: a project for developing the highlands, at a cost of JD 435,000; another scheme for developing the Zarqa River Basin, at a cost of JD 487,000; and two projects for planting trees and preventing soil erosion at a cost of JD 120,000.

Hmoud chairs meeting on river basin project

In a related development,

Minister of Agriculture Marwan

Hmoud chaired a meeting on

Tuesday to evaluate the work on

developing the Zarqa River

Basin, in light of a report submitted on the scheme by a consultancy firm.

In addition to discussing the report, the meeting evaluated two other reports on the scheme prepared by its administration and the project's technical committee.

Mr. Hmoud stressed the importance of this project in the process of agricultural development in Jordan. The minister called on the parties involved in the project to find the best options and possibilities for meeting its goals.

In addition, he said that an "ambitious scheme" for building a 637-dunum youth sports city complex, including cultural facilities, was currently being discussed for possible implementation by the concerned officials. A plan to green the governorate in accordance with a gradual, annual plan is already underway, he added.

The department for public works is also carrying out the necessary maintenance of major roads and networks in the gov-

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Police nab gang behind murder and robbery

(Continued from page 1)
plans to an attack on Mr. Bashiti outside the firm and maintained a constant watch on the moneychanger's movements at home and outside, Lt.-Gen. Majali said. Subsequently, the criminals decided that the best time for the attack was when Mr. Bashiti would be leaving home for work with money and carried out the crime at 8:15 a.m. on the street near his house, and all the three were present at the scene of the crime but only Ali took part in the actual killing, the PSD director said.

Lt.-Gen. Majali said several people were eyewitnesses to the crime and were able to provide description of the killer to the authorities.

Soon after police began their investigations, it became apparent that not everyone who had important information was ready to cooperate with police for fear of getting involved in the inquiries, Lt.-Gen. Majali said.

He noted that police had announced a JD 10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the murderer and had also provided a sketch of the

criminal which was made up from descriptions given by eyewitnesses.

Subsequently, police were able to pinpoint the suspects and kept them under close surveillance, he said. Their names were provided to all points of entry and exit to prevent their escape from the country, he added. By Nov. 30, police were able to gather all conclusive evidence against the three and then moved to arrest them. Upon interrogation, the three confessed and reenacted the crime at the actual scene, Lt.-Gen. Majali said.

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criminal which was made up from descriptions given by eyewitnesses.

Crown Prince meets Malaysian minister

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday conferred with Malaysian Agriculture Minister Dr. Dato Seri Sanusi bin Joved, who attended the seminar on food security in the Muslim World which concluded here on Monday evening.

During the meeting, they dis-

cussed Jordanian-Malaysian relations and scopes for further cooperation, in line with Prince Hassan's call for an increase in cooperation between Arab countries and the Association of South East Asian Nations.

The Malaysian minister later left for home at the end of his visit to Jordan.

Princess Basma attends graduation in Mafrqa

MAFRQA (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Tuesday attended a ceremony on the graduation of participants in training courses in teaching kindergarten, typing, dressmaking and artificial flower-making at the Mafrqa social community centre.

After speeches on the occasion, Princess Basma opened a charity bazaar organised by the centre, displaying embroideries, traditional costumes and other crafts.

Jordan, Tunisia hold talks on increasing trade

TUNIS (Petra) — The under-secretary of the Ministry of Supply, Abdullah Hawamdeh, currently in Tunis at the head of an official Jordanian delegation, on Tuesday held talks with the Tunisian minister of agriculture and food industries on aspects of trade and cooperation between the two countries.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Hawamdeh said that his talks with the minister centred on prospects for Tunisia supplying Jordan

dates with olive oil and importing Jordanian potash fertilisers.

Later Mr. Hawamdeh and his accompanying delegation visited a vegetable oil refinery, a soap factory and an olive oil-canning factory. Mr. Hawamdeh said that, in addition, he discussed with Tunisian officials the possibility of setting up a joint venture for refining and canning olive oil. He pointed out that a Tunisian team is currently on a working visit to Jordan to conduct a feasibility study on the joint project.

CAEU begins review of Arab economy today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 48th meeting of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) opens here today at the ministerial level.

CAEU Secretary-General Mahdi Obeidi said in a statement that the Arab ministers of economy, trade and finance will discuss means of promoting trade among Arab countries which are members of the Arab Common Market, among other important Arab countries.

He said that the participants will also review a general budget for the CEAU prepared by the representatives of Arab countries in their meetings last month at the CEAU headquarters.

Jordan, India sign plan for cultural exchange

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and India on Tuesday signed an executive programme for the implementation of a cultural agreement for the period 1987-1989.

The programme encourages direct cooperation between cultural institutions and research centres in the two countries. The programme also aims to develop educational techniques through the exchange of visits by experts to study educational systems and to help bolster relations between universities in both countries.

In addition, the deal provides

ministers will review a CEAU report on the general economic conditions in the Arab World and the adverse effects of the world economic recession on the Arab economy, as well as the economic conditions in the Israeli-occupied Arab lands. Mr. Obeidi said.

He said that the participants will also review a general budget for the CEAU prepared by the representatives of Arab countries in their meetings last month at the CEAU headquarters.

This assessment was based on Dr. Mabro's observations of Arab economic structures which, he said, are lopsided, as some countries are rich in natural resources, while others are lacking. He stressed that Arab countries have small economies and are oil dependent, whether they are oil rich or not.

Dr. Mabro pointed out that economic links between the Arab countries have not crystallised, adding that "the obstacle might be the political sense of independence."

This point was pursued further by his colleague, Roger Owen, who outlined the important factors underlying the pattern of economic interaction between the states of the Arab World and the various attempts which have been made to strengthen economic ties between them.

In a paper entitled "Arab Integration in Historical Perspective: Are there any lessons?" Dr. Owen referred to one of the basic reasons behind the failure to progress further towards an Arab common market after 1967. He said that integration which would involve trade promotion rather than trade diversion would have meant losses for national economies. In addition, this trade arrangement promised no immediate economic advantage to individual member states, as it represented a concerted, common effort to improve collective economic output, according to Dr. Owen.

Another problem Dr. Owen mentioned was the prospect of establishing a rigid timetable for the progressive abolition of intra-regional trade barriers, which

could be a major obstacle to the success of the common market.

Dr. Mabro listed fear of nationalisation, bureaucratic and institutional obstacles, lack of opportunities and restrictions of host countries as some of the main reasons behind the low rate of local investment. "Capital has no nationality; it goes where people believe it will bring returns. Oil wealth has produced positive benefits, but also negative effects, because it has diverted the Arab World from the economic front and the measures that must be taken for long-term development," he said, stressing that individual countries must develop their own economic policies before attempting to integrate with the other countries.

On the formulation of an economic policy for the Arab World, Dr. Owen said that economic opportunities presented by the implementation of models of integration based simply on trade creation remain poor and are unlikely to prove worthwhile.

Haj Hassan praises Amman summit at opening of meeting of Arab social affairs ministers

TUNIS (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan, who is also president of the executive board of the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs, said on Tuesday that the Amman extraordinary summit formed a turning point in the march towards Arab solidarity, as well as a starting point for joint Arab work.

Addressing the opening session of the council's eighth meeting, Mr. Haj Hassan said that the Amman summit also embodied the keen interest of Arab leaders in crystallising a unified Arab stand to face all challenges confronting the Arab Nation.

"The summit," he added, "contributed effectively towards making regional issues understood at the international level, particularly the Palestine problem and the Iran-Iraq war."

Addressing one of the major topics to be discussed during the meeting, Mr. Haj Hassan stressed the need for supporting and revitalising Arab social work by devoting all human and financial resources towards the goal of development.

In addition, the minister emphasised the importance of integration in the field of social Arab work, saying that greater integration is necessary for achieving interaction between so-

cial and economic development. Mr. Haj Hassan pointed out that social work constitutes the backbone of all efforts designed to mobilise Arab resources and ensure the welfare of all Arab citizens.

The minister then presented a brief report on the executive bureau's accomplishments during past year.

Also addressing the opening session was the current session's chairperson, Rashida Abdul Karim, the minister of social welfare and zakat in Sudan. Mrs. Abdul Karim called for the translation of the Amman summit resolutions into practical actions and urged the Arab social affairs ministers to be inspired by the spirit of unity which prevailed during the recent summit.

In a statement prior to his departure, the minister said that the council will discuss a report on measures for supporting the Arab Social Work Fund and a

Conference evaluates Arab economic integration

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The practicality of Arab economic integration and whether this concept is outdated was the main concern of participants during the second working session of the conference entitled "Economic Integration and European Economic Community (EEC) relations with Jordan," which ended its discussions here last week.

A general consensus reached among scholars, mainly economists, from Oxford University, the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University reflected their doubt that regional integration was stimulated by Egypt's success in taking control of the Suez Canal and beating back the Anglo-French and Israeli invasions—an event which was identified by many of the Arab governments as a prime example of the advantage of Arab solidarity and of the proper repossession of national economic resources.

This assessment was based on Dr. Mabro's observations of Arab economic structures which, he said, are lopsided, as some countries are rich in natural resources, while others are lacking. He stressed that Arab countries have small economies and are oil dependent, whether they are oil rich or not.

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Naji Al Ali: Art at death's doorstep

By Natalie Warren-Green

LONDON (AF) — Some of the unhappiest people are to be found in occupations commonly aimed at making people laugh. Naji Al Ali provoked laughter, but of the bitter kind.

Rather than regale his audience with light hearted caricaturings of its favourite heroes, Naji made it pause and think and often have second thoughts about its idols. It wasn't art for art's sake, and it proved lethal — for the artist. For all that attention and the massive but muted following, Naji Al Ali paid with his life.

Ali Naji Awad Al Adhami, popularly known as Naji Al Ali, the Palestinian cartoonist, was gunned down by an unidentified assailant in London and died of the wounds five weeks later on Aug. 29, 1987. As this was written, Scotland Yard was still investigating the murder.

To his friends, Naji's killing held few mysteries that mattered. The cartoonist quite plainly had become the victim of one of his numerous enemies, one of the many who had promised to liquidate him, one of the many whom Naji cynically seemed to have "offended" with his outspoken illustration of abuses of excesses within the Arab World.

Whatever it was about Naji's life that led him to draw cartoons of a highly controversial and bitter nature, his message touched the hearts and minds of the millions who, at one time or another, came across Naji's unmistakable "signature," the figure of a boy with his back to the audience and

hands usually folded at the back, in a metaphor for a conscious rejection of surroundings.

Naji was born in 1938 in Al Shajara village in the Galilee and, when he was 10, the family had to leave home to live in exile in the southern Lebanese refugee camp of Ain Al Helweh.

"That is where the roots of Naji's outrage at the world around him lay," one of Naji's close friends, writer Khalid Kishatayn, said in an interview. "He used his cartoons to express the bitterness he felt within him."

"His experiences of the refugee camps greatly disturbed him, and he turned to art to vent his feelings."

The late poet Ghassan Kanafani, who was himself assassinated in Lebanon in 1972, discovered Naji's talent during a visit to Ain Al Helweh in the late 1950s.

Naji was largely a self-taught man. Although he joined an art institute in Lebanon in the early 1960s, his studies were short-lived. Naji discontinued his art course to work in Kuwait for the *Al Tali'a* magazine.

He returned to Beirut to join the editorial board of the Lebanese newspaper *As Safir* and contributed his drawings to *Al Khalij* newspaper until 1983, when, shortly after the Israeli invasion, he returned to Kuwait and worked for *Al Qabas* newspaper. By 1984, he was again publishing his drawings in *Al Khalij*.

As promising as Naji's career may at first glance appear, however, those who knew him were aware of the stress he ex-



perienced as a result of the controversy he created with his cartoons.

"Naji was threatened on a number of occasions about the content of his work when he was in Kuwait," said Kishatayn.

"This caused problems for *Al Qabas*," he added, "that is why it was arranged for him to be transferred to England."

Naji began work in the London office of *Al Qabas* in October

1985, and he continued to contribute his work to *Al Khalij*.

His change of location did not stop the threats from people who featured in his cartoons. In fact, the threats became more sinister and insistent.

"Naji knew he was threatened and that his life was in danger," said Kishatayn. "his wife was extremely worried about him."

So why did Naji not change his style or themes?

Naji Al Ali never sought to

make anyone laugh," said Buland Al Hayderi, "but to provoke us in the extreme, to stir our disgust of a condemned reality and to deepen our awareness of an essential cause that brings us together, in pain and expectation."

The consequence was tragic — he provoked the people at whom his work was aimed as well as the onlookers who he wished to inform.

The threats became increasingly malicious. A friend said that Naji received an anonymous telephone call in mid-June and was told: "You must correct your attitude. Don't say anything against the honest people."

Reports further indicate that Naji knew that he was in a dangerous position. Two weeks before the attack, he told the journal, *Index on Censorship*, that he regarded himself a sitting target.

"About three days before he was shot," recalled Kishatayn, "Naji's wife took one look at a cartoon and said, 'You've had it now.'"

Naji was shot at close range through the right cheek on July 22, 1987, just outside the Chelsea offices of *Al Qabas*.

"We were all very shocked," a spokesman for the paper said. "Naji always had a smile for everyone, whether he was under pressure or not, he did not seem at all worried about threats he may have received."

Another of his colleagues added, "We didn't think we were that important but someone obviously thinks we are."

Reagan's trump card

THE question of raising human rights practices in the Eastern bloc countries is a favourite item in every forum that deals with U.S.-Soviet or East-West relations. In what seemed to be a prelude to the ongoing Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Washington, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead said: "Human rights is always on our agenda at every meeting we have with the Soviet Union. It will be on the agenda next week at the summit, and I believe that there will be good chunk of the total time of the summit devoted to the subject of human rights." He also said that "there has not been nearly as much progress as we would hope for or as we would expect" in the advance of human rights in the Eastern bloc. However, Whitehead expressed optimism that "after the summit, there will be a lot of progress."

Not long ago, President Reagan alluded to the Soviet Union as an "evil empire." By saying so he was only reciting a basic Western assumption that only the Western-style democratic system can guarantee fundamental human rights everywhere, while all human rights violations originate from the Socialist-communist system which is regarded as intrinsically evil. Lopsided as this assumption is, it allows Western political actors to claim moral superiority in international affairs. Certainly, it leads to the point of stark absurdity when put to the litmus test of the Middle East.

The Israeli political system is a carbon copy of the Western democratic system which has been nourished to grow with Western assistance and American dollars. Built into this system are laws precisely designed to violate human rights in the most blatant manner. For example, Israel's so-called Law of Return confers exclusive nationality rights only to the Jews; Arabs of Palestinian origin are denied such rights. Another example is the Law of Citizenship, which classifies Israeli Jews as having Jewish nationality and Israeli Arabs as having Arab nationality. And thirdly, "a wide range of national services are rendered to the Jewish population, while the Israeli Arabs are denied access to them. In other words, the civil liberties and human rights of the Arabs are trampled upon by a system that claims at the same time, to uphold the universality of human nature and human rights. When it comes to the question of the occupied territories, Israel knows no bounds in its human rights violations — torture, illegal detention, expropriation of Arab lands, collective punishment, demolition of houses, censorship and host of other crimes which dehumanise an entire Arab population. The U.S. turns a blind eye to all these violations."

At the ongoing Washington summit, Mr. Reagan is likely to broach the subject of human rights practices in the Soviet Union. He would, in substance, want more Jews to emigrate from the Soviet Union to Israel. The human rights question, therefore, is a political trump card Mr. Reagan will probably play, at the behest of Israel, to elicit concessions, and the Soviets are not so naive as not to be aware of the rules of this game.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'y: Monarch continues mission

KING Hussein's visit to Cairo and Riyadh which were preceded by visits to Baghdad and Damascus should be considered as a continuation of a mission to which the monarch has devoted his time and efforts in order to enhance the resolutions of the Amman summit meeting of last month. The King's current endeavours were complemented by the messages he sent to different world leaders through Jordanian envoys, explaining the outcome of the summit and the unified stand of the Arab Nation. The Jordanian moves are being carried out in the name of all Arabs and for the sake of achieving solidarity among them all, and for mobilising all resources and all efforts towards finding solutions for the Gulf conflict and the Middle East problem. King Hussein is being watched by the Arab masses who are full of hope that his contacts with world leaders in general and Arab heads of state in particular will help fulfil the aspirations and the objectives of the Arab Nation. Arab masses are looking with hope to the implementation of the Amman summit resolutions which cannot be done without mobilising efforts of all Arab states and without charting joint action. We hope that the aspirations of the Arab masses will be achieved and the King will succeed in his endeavours, because the challenges and the threats facing our nation have become serious and the conspiracies are escalating and directed against all the Arab countries.

Al Dustour: Super hopes

THE Soviet-U.S. summit is being held against a world wide optimism that the leaders of the two giant nations will discuss and help to solve regional problems in addition to signing a treaty to curb nuclear weapons. There is no doubt that all peoples of the world look to this summit with hope that it will bring agreement between the superpowers on means of solving the world's issues; and the peoples of the Middle East hope that the superpowers will find a just solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict. If the heads of the two giant nations are unwilling to discuss this problem or are not serious about a solution for it, then the Arab-Israeli conflict will remain as a hotbed of tension that could endanger world peace. If the superpowers fail to tackle this issue then they will allow Israel to maintain its occupation of Arab land and its eviction of Arab people from their homeland in defiance of all U.N. resolutions. The United States is sure to do one thing at the summit: To ask the Soviet Union to allow more Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel. This question is probably more important for the United States than a treaty on strategic weapons with the Soviet Union in view of the Zionist influence in the United States. The whole world is watching the summit to see what the two leaders will agree on, and we too are watching and hoping that the Soviet Union will adhere firmly to its own position with regard to the Middle East question and its ties with the Arab World.

The bitter taste of peace lingers on

Tony Walker and Andrew Whitley assess 10 years of Egyptian-Israeli relations, seeing the sometimes uneasy peace akin to a loveless marriage of opposites which survives because it suits both parties.

NOTHING illustrates better the gap in attitudes towards the 1979 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt than the two countries' differing approaches towards the 10th anniversary of late President Anwar Sadat's dramatic visit to Jerusalem, on November 19, 1977 to see Mr. Menachem Begin, prime minister, breaking for ever the mould of Middle East politics. The reporters have had a hard time finding much Egyptian response.

Those in government circles are particularly reluctant to draw attention to what remains an uncomfortable fact, for a country striving to refurbish its Arab credentials.

Less constrained are prominent figures who fell out with Mr. Sadat over his visit to Jerusalem, breaking ranks with the rest of the Arab World, which wanted a united front demanding Israel vacate the occupied territory in the Sinai, West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. Ismail Fahmy, former foreign minister who resigned over the Sadat visit, said nothing has been achieved in the past decade to resolve the underlying Arab-Israel dispute.

He acknowledged there had been gains, such as the return of the Sinai and 10 years of peace between Egypt and Israel, but said the price for the Arabs had been too high. If Mr. Sadat had resisted the temptation of a separate peace with Israel, progress would have been made towards solving the Palestinian problem. Instead, the situation had "changed completely" and the Jewish settlement drive in the West Bank and Gaza had placed additional obstacles to peace.

Mr. Mohammad Ibrahim Kamal — who succeeded Mr. Fahmy as foreign minister and subsequently resigned in protest at the terms of the 1978 Camp David agreement whose second stage should have led to autonomy for Palestinians under occupation — blamed Mr. Sadat for capitulating to the Americans and Israelis, thus putting no effective barriers in the way of Jewish settlements which have changed the face of the West Bank and Gaza. The lack of U.S. restraint on Israel, encouraged by Camp David's flexible terms, allowed Israel to take liberties with a divided Arab World.

He also cited the 1981 attack on Iraq's nuclear reactor, the 1982 invasion of Lebanon and occupation of Beirut, and the 1985 air strike against the Pales-

Death and politics in the Punjab

By C.G. Labelle
The Associated Press

AMRITSAR, India — Vijay Kumar sat amid the bolts of cloth in the narrow shop inherited from his father and told of the horror that struck on the Hindu holiday of Divali.

"My father was sitting at home worshiping. Two Sikh youths climbed over the wall and shot him dead. I don't know why," Kumar said.

Hindu cloth merchant Ranjith Kumar was killed on Oct. 22 in the town of Chollasahab, south of this Sikh holy city in one of Punjab state's most violent districts. He was one of a dozen people, Sikhs and Hindus, killed in the town of 10,000 in two years.

More than 900 people have died this year in Punjab in attacks blamed on Sikh radicals fighting for a separate nation for their minority religion in northern India.

In that time, police have killed more than 320 men they branded as Sikh terrorists.

Last May, India's central government removed the elected government of the Sikh political party Akali Dal from power and took over running the state in an effort to halt the violence.

Still, the killing goes on, and many look at the seemingly endless violence and share the bewilderment of 25-year-old Vijay Kumar at the death of his father.

Punjab is India's richest farm state, supplying wheat, rice and other crops to the country's 780 million people. Industrial Sikhs farmers and wily Hindu traders give it a per capita income of

4,416 rupees (\$339) — compared to 2,596 rupees (\$200) for the country overall.

Even these days, Punjab's roads are clogged with trucks and ox carts piled high with sugar cane from the harvest, and tractors plow the fields readying the ground for wheat.

The markets in Amritsar and other towns are crowded.

But the markets close early, buses do not run at night, and even the popular Punjabi sweet shops are deserted by mid-evening.

India's government bans the foreign tourists who used to visit the Sikh's Golden Temple in Amritsar. It was an army raid on the Golden Temple to dislodge radicals that led the revenge slaying of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984 by two of her Sikh bodyguards, and in turn to anti-Sikh riots in New Delhi.

Today, the Congress Party headed by Mrs. Gandhi's son and successor, Rajiv Gandhi, is holding rallies throughout Punjab. The opposition Sikh party Akali Dal is trying to recover from internal splits, and there is talk of a possible state election.

But the people talk less of politics — unless they are assessing blame — than they do of the chaos and fear in Punjab.

In Chollasahab, Sikh shopkeeper Kundan Singh said: "People do not come from the villages. Every business is hurt. It's down 50 per cent. Nobody comes after 5 p.m. The shops used to be open until 10."

Dr. H.L. Passi, a physician at the government hospital in

Amritsar, said there is a "fear psychosis" among Hindus and Sikhs.

Both are afraid of Sikh militants, and many Sikhs also fear police who are taking a tougher stand against the militants.

Sikhs charge that police kill young men in "fake encounters" aimed at eliminating suspects without trial. Police deny this but admit they are hampered because no one is willing to testify in the climate of fright.

In Amritsar, Sikh widow Kulwant Kaur tearfully recounted her fear led to the death of her husband, Sardar Singh, a dealer in construction equipment.

Singh fled after his motor scooter hit another scooter, knocking a woman passenger to the ground. Although she wasn't seriously hurt, the other driver shouted, "A Sikh has killed my grandmother."

The 42-year-old Sikh was chased by police. In the tussle that ensued, a policeman was killed with his own gun. Finally Singh was shot to death, and police said he was a "terrorist" armed with a .32 caliber pistol.

Later, an inquiry demanded by Singh's neighbours — Sikhs and Hindus — found he had no gun, nor any connection with Sikh militants.

"He was afraid because he was a Sikh," his widow said. "The government is fully responsible for the death of my husband."

Vijay Kumar, son of the slain Hindu merchant in Chollasahab, also blames Punjab's violence more on the government than on the Sikhs. "The government is

responsible. It is not able to control things," he said.

Sikh politicians say the ruling Congress Party gave encouragement to Sikh radicals in the early 1980s to try to split the Akali Dal, the Sikh political party.

Many Sikhs also say police exaggerate the Punjab problem, listing those killed in ordinary crimes as victims of Sikh terrorism. Punjab always was violent, known for land disputes, vengeance murders and quick-tempered Sikhs whose religion —

praises "warrior-saints."

Both sides bemoan the increasing division between Sikhs and Hindus. The bond was once such that often one son in a large Hindu family would be raised as a Sikh, since the sect was seen as the protector of Hindus against Muslims in the religious turmoil of India.

Sikhism was founded about 500 years ago as a middle ground between the two perpetually warring faiths, taking its belief in a single God from Islam but other practices from Hinduism.

Sikhs comprise only 2 per cent of India's people, who are 80 per cent Hindu. But in Punjab, Sikhs are a slight majority among the 17 million population.

Tom Page laying to rest the ghosts of Vietnam

By Claudia Rader
Reuter

HARRIETSHAM, England — Tim Page, a British photographer known as "The Crazy Kid" of the press corps covering the Vietnam war, is finally laying to rest the ghosts of the 10-year conflict that defined and nearly destroyed his life.

Eighteen years after Page was nearly blown to pieces by a massive mine as he stepped out of a helicopter near Saigon, he spoke quietly of the smoke and gunfire in the rice paddies and the long, desperate years of recovery.

"It was living life on the edge, we were all caught up in the magic of it. I fell in at the deep end and had to swim to survive," he said from his quiet cottage in the pastures of southeast England.

He is at work on his autobiography and has just published the dream he clutched at for a decade after he was evacuated from the battlefield — "Vietnam, Ten Years After," a beautiful, haunting photographic portrait of a landscape and a people emerging, like Page, from the ravages of war.

"It's my recovery from myself. I had all this stuff to exercise," he said, smoke curling from his hand-rolled cigarette.

Everywhere in his home are mementos, fragments of the war that raged for 10,000 days until April 1975, leaving millions dead.

The plaque on the cottage reads LZ-1, a salute to the landing zones where Huey helicopters

ters, the workhorses of the U.S. war effort, rose and descended, bringing in supplies and taking out the dead and wounded.

The ashtrays are made from upright artillery shells, the walls decorated with old press passes. The placid ginger cat is called Phuong — after a Daoist peace island in the Mekong River where Page and his friends used to go to escape the madness.

Page, 43, still has the beaten-up Pentax camera given to him by his first news editors when he arrived in Laos, fresh off the hippie trail across Europe and Asia, in 1965.

Shortly after, a coup broke out in Laos and Page was the only Western photographer there. The pictures won him some quick cash and a staff job in Vietnam with an American news agency. He was 19.

In the three years he spent based in Saigon, Page was wounded in action five times, saw friends die around him and survived in a haze of dope and the high of the battlefield.

He was labelled the "Crazy Kid" of the Vietnam press corps and was later the model for the crazed photographer hopper in Francis Ford Coppola's harrowing Vietnam film "Apocalypse Now".

He still wears the Rolex wrist-watch that froze at 14:02 on April 19, 1969 — "The day I was killed," Page says — when he stepped out of a helicopter near Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh city) into the blast of a 350-lb (160-kg)



Tom Page

anti-tank mine and was given 20 minutes to live.

Doctors took a two-inch piece of shrapnel from his head, removed a quarter of his brain and as Page puts it, filled the hole with epoxy resin.

Page's left arm still hangs crookedly and he limps. He says he won't have children because his repeated exposure to the highly toxic defoliant Agent Orange would "make them look like a cross between a spider and someone's science experiment."

He spent the next 10 years stumbling through Europe and the United States and a failed marriage. On one rock-bottom day in Rome, he loaded a pistol, spun the chamber and pulled the trigger. He drew a blank.

"I spent those years corkscrewed into my problems, blacklisted as a crazy junkie. It took me until the end of the 70s to start parting the smokescreen," he said.

In 1980, Page returned to Vietnam for The Observer newspaper's magazine. "Going back threw a switch. It finally let the whole thing sink just low enough beneath me," he said.

He published a book called "Nam" and freelanced for travel magazines, shooting everything from British country life to sports events.

In 1985, as Vietnam celebrated the 10th anniversary of its unification, Page was back, photographing for the new book, travelling around the country, renewing Vietnamese contacts and revisiting old haunts.



An Arab couple under way with their livestock. The proud Arabs of the Negev Desert are standing up to the might of Zionists in a fight for their ancestral land.

Bedouins continue to defy Israeli rulers

By Laszlo Trankovits

BEERSHEBA (DPA) — The mighty force arrived at dawn, in jeeps and army trucks and with jeeps and army trucks and with powerful bulldozers. Almost 500 Israeli soldiers and police combed the tiny Negev desert village of Lagiya under the rapidly rising, scorching sun.

They searched every house —

in vain — for weapons and locked

some families in. "It was as

though war has broken out,"

Suleyman Al Nassara said bitterly.

"The dark-skinned men in

flowing robes, some with tears in

their eyes, looked on silently as

the destruction was carried out on

the edge of the village. In the

background veiled women stood

motionless watching the military

operation.

The target of the operation was

a group of 2,000 olive trees. They

were uprooted and carried away

in the trucks.

Four hours later it was all over.

What had once been 50,000

square metres of flourishing olive

trees now resembled a cratered, pockmarked landscape.

This recent episode put the spotlight briefly on a "painful conflict," as Amos Gilboa, the Israeli prime minister's adviser for Arab affairs, put it.

Despite a major effort, Israel has yet to succeed in persuading the majority of the proud and willful Bedouins to settle down and integrate into the country's society.

On repeated occasions, Israeli law and the traditions of this nomadic people have clashed irreconcilably.

The Bedouins, pointing out that they have since time immemorial run things their own way in the Negev, refuse to accept this situation.

Most of them still travel by camel accompanied by herds of goats and sheep — believed to now total some 250,000 — through the Negev desert and set up their tents wherever they want.

The Bedouins insist that the law of the desert should prevail, the law of established rights, tribal laws and tradition, the famous hospitality as well as blood feud are still very much a part of Bedouin life.

Most of them still travel by camel accompanied by herds of goats and sheep — believed to now total some 250,000 — through the Negev desert and set up their tents wherever they want.

"This is the land of our fathers," Sheikh Al Nassara maintains. "I had been ready to compromise, but now it is a matter of honour, and I will not yield."

The Bedouins claim a total of

61,000 hectares of Negev land as theirs, Israel has conceded much less than a tenth of this.

"When they come to us we give them land to cultivate," Eli Babai of the Israeli Land Office assured. "But they don't come and instead simply say that it is their land."

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The Bedouins claim a total of

Britain's weekend warriors won't play by mock combat rules

By Catherine Campbell

Reuter

GRAVESEND, England — Shots crackle in the English country air as camouflaged figures

climb through the woods, drop to

their stomachs and fire at each

other.

A triumphant shout of "you're

dead" brings the indignant out-

burst: "No I'm not — you only

would fire me in the head."

The main problem with combat

games, said organisers and par-

ticipants at a mock battle zone 20

miles southeast of London, is that

the troops refuse to die. They

cheat.

"Once someone is shot (by a

pellet of blood-red paint fired

from a carbon-dioxide powered

weapon resembling a .357 Mag-

num), he is supposed to be dead

and out of action for 10 minutes."

explained organiser Bernie

Fairies.

Under the rules, hits above the

neck, though satisfyingly stinging

and messy, do not count as kill.

But the participants in "combat

adventure," an American import

billed by its organisers as "Brit-

ain's fastest growing team sport

with about 100 battle sites in

operation each weekend through-

out the country, are reluctant to

be put out of action, even tem-

porarily.

To avoid arguments marshalls

with walkie-talkies patrol the

woods, monitoring the paint-

splattered casualties to make sure

they do not sneak back into

battle.

On a recent Sunday four mar-

shalls patrolled the 27 acre wood-

land where about 40 enthusiasts,

mostly men in their 20s, had

showed up in response to an

advertisement offering "a day in

the country locked in combat."

Divided into two teams they

established base camps in the

forest, then plunged into warfare

with the aim of capturing the

enemy flag and hitting as many

human targets as possible.

The "Dirty Harry" style guns

provided are modified according

to strict government regulations

so they can fire only paint pellets.

Occasionally the marshalls toss

thunderflashes to add to the

atmosphere with explosions and

smoke.

The Woodlands, pockmarked with

World War II bomb craters

and strewn with trees shattered in

recent hurricane-force winds,

appeared eerily like a war zone.

With water & ice

... and some one

you care for.



ARAK EL-KARMEN

Indian astrologers use computers to help arrange 'ideal' marriages

By Prakash Chandra

National Geographic

NEW DELHI, India — India's astrologers are gazing deep into their computer printouts these days to create marriages made in heaven.

Arranging marriages provided a meagre living for astrologers — called "pandits" here — until personal computers came into the picture.

For example, 50-year-old Panji Bhaiji Tantrik of Meerut, a city about 50 miles northeast of New Delhi, earned barely 50 rupees (\$4) a month before he bought a computer. Now his computer horoscopes earn him almost 10,000 rupees (\$800) a month.

In a red-painted room in his house, he keeps a human skull and other instruments of the arts required to destroy his clients' enemies with black magic.

IOC chief warns countries against boycott of Olympics

GENEVA (R) — International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch will this week call on his executive board to punish states that boycott the Olympic Games by banning them from future competition.

Samaranch told Reuters he would submit his proposal to the Lausanne-based IOC's 12-member executive board at a meeting on Thursday.

He made his view clear as North Korea and South Korea headed for a showdown in their dispute over the summer Olympics, set to open in nine months.

North Korea has threatened to call for a Communist Bloc boycott unless it is accepted as a co-host of the 1988 Olympics.

Samaranch said that if any country accepted an IOC invitation to Seoul but then stayed away, "this national Olympic committee must be punished."

The IOC, the games' governing body, has set January 17 as the deadline for accepting a record 167 invitations to Seoul. More than 90 countries, including most in the West, have accepted but no communist state has replied.

If the executive board endorses the proposal it will be put to the

full 91-member IOC for final approval in February.

Samaranch said the ban would cover the following Summer Olympics. The next games after Seoul are set for 1992 in Samaranch's home town, Barcelona in Spain.

He said no consideration should be given to the athletic strength or importance of a boycotting state. Any boycotting nation should be punished and banned.

"The Soviet Union, as the United States, has the right, the full right, to accept or not to accept the invitation," he said. "You can accept or not accept, but if you accept, it is compulsory to take part in the games."

The United States boycotted the Moscow Olympics in 1980 in protest against Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. Moscow led a 16-nation boycott of the 1984 Los Angeles Games, citing security concern.

Lendl rolls over Wilander to win Masters

NEW YORK (R) — Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia crushed Sweden's Mats Wilander 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 on Monday night to win his third consecutive Masters tennis tournament and a record fifth overall.

Lendl was simply too powerful for Wilander, forcing him to run a marathon along the baseline throughout much of the match.

When the Swede did manage to make occasional forays to the net, Lendl punished him, blasting passing shots by him for winners.

Ilie Nastase is second to Lendl in Masters tournament victories. The Romanian won it four times in the early 1970s.

Lendl, who won \$100,000 for his night's work, set the tone of the match by breaking Wilander in the very first game. He went on to break the third-ranked Wilander in the first game of all three

sets.

The two opened the match by testing each other's ground strokes in a hypnotically long rally, until the Czechoslovak sprung like a cobra to blast a forehand, passing shot to go to a break point. He broke the Swede on an overhead volley.

Wilander broke Lendl in the fourth game which featured 37 on one point. But Lendl, playing his eighth final in as many years here, broke back in the next game. He broke the hapless Swede again in the seventh game, when he followed up a perfect lob winner with a backhand volley down the line.

The third-ranked Wilander, 23, saved two break points in the first game of the second set with great recoveries to the cheers of the crowd, now solidly behind the obvious underdog. But Lendl

will have received cheques worth \$1,593,200.

Greek soccer team in for a showdown

LONDON (AP) — As it tries to overcome a three-goal deficit in the second leg of its UEFA Cup third-round series against Honved, Panathinikios of Athens thinks it has two things going for it.

One is a dramatically changed lineup, with three new starters. The other is a big home-town crowd.

Less than 24 hours before Wednesday's kickoff, more than 65,000 tickets had been sold for the match in 70,000-seat Olympic

stadium. The fans will cheer as their favourites try to bounce back from a 5-2 loss in Budapest two weeks ago.

Other third-round matches scheduled Wednesday have Feyenoord Rotterdam at Bayer Leverkusen, Barcelona at Flaminari Vlora 4-1, Borussia Dortmund downed Bruges 3-0, Verona beat Sportul 3-1, Vitoria blanked Vitkovice 2-0 and Bremen edged Dynamo Tbilisi 2-1.

Coach Vassilis Daniel of Panathinikios has dropped defender Christos Vassilou from the starting lineup for being out of shape. He'll also be going without Lyandros Georgantzis, who is sitting out a suspension, and defender Yannis Kalitzakis.

Honves was reported confident Tuesday that it could maintain its three-goal edge. Coach Bertalan Bicskei said his team would resist attempts by the Greeks to force it into defensive play.

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Japan becomes leading banking power

WASHINGTON (AP) — Japan dominated world banking in the first half of 1987, with foreigners more than tripling the money they deposited in Japanese banks compared with the first half of 1986, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported on Monday.

"The largest net providers of funds were the Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, while the largest net absorbers of funds were Japan and the United States," said the monthly "IMF Memorandum."

A spokesman said the figures for individual provider countries could not be broken down.

The build-up of yen in foreigners' accounts is technically considered as borrowing by Japanese banks, since they are obliged to pay back deposits

when foreigners ask for them. This Japanese borrowing rose from \$32 billion between January and June last year to \$110 billion in the same period this year.

"That's normal when a currency is becoming a reserve currency," said Mr. John Williamson, an advisor to the IMF.

"People in other countries build up their deposits in yen because it's convenient to have them, and also in this case some of it may be speculation on a rise in the value of the yen," he said.

U.S. bank's inflow of deposits amounted to only \$17 billion, down from \$24 billion in the first half of 1986, the IMF reported.

While foreigners deposited \$110 billion in Japan, Japanese were depositing some of their own funds in other countries.

"Net flows from international

banks to Japan surged to \$47 billion in the first half of 1987, from \$8 billion a year earlier," the IMF said. "A substantial portion of these funds was recycled immediately to finance the purchase of external assets" such as real estate, art, stocks and bonds of U.S. companies.

Mr. Lincoln said Japanese reserves of dollars are so high in part because the country's central bank bought huge amounts of dollars in an attempt to prop up the international price of the dollar.

The IMF said the huge growth of the money going into Japanese banks can be explained partly by the government action on Dec. 1 of last year to open a new system of offshore banking, with 181 financial firms licensed to take part. Experts said this move made possible a big growth in deposits of what are called "Euroyen" — accumulations of Japanese currency outside the control of Japanese bank regulators.

The value of the assets Japan purchased abroad by \$27 billion. That amount went into Japan's international reserves, bringing these to \$64 billion.

TOKYO (R) — Japanese customers of Iranian oil said on Tuesday Tehran had offered them big discounts on December cargoes of crude, following official denials by Iran that it was selling cut-price petroleum.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh denied on Monday that Iran was selling oil at a discount and said such accusations were a propaganda ploy to head off Tehran's proposals to raise oil prices at this week's meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The Japanese buyers said they had received telex messages from Iran's National Oil Company offering oil at prices linked to the free market, rather than at the higher, official OPEC-set level.

They said they had not yet replied to the proposed discount price formula, but added that it came as no surprise.

"It is the proposal we expected," said one term buyer. "It's not so attractive, but not so unattractive. Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi have so far refused to change their December prices to us," he said.

OPEC oil ministers are gathering in Vienna for a meeting starting on Wednesday to try to resolve the problem of overproduction, which has led to widespread price discounting among members.

The world oil glut has caused

average prices to sag between \$3 and \$4 per barrel since an August peak of \$21.

Tehran radio reported on Monday that Aqazadeh would demand that OPEC raise oil prices by \$2.70 a barrel to offset inflation and the fall in the value of the dollar.

The radio, monitored in Nicosia, said Aqazadeh told a Tehran news conference the falling dollar and world inflation had cut into the \$18 per barrel benchmark price of oil set by OPEC last year by \$2 and seventy cents respectively.

He also reiterated Iran's demand that oil prices be unpegged from the dollar.

Ministers from the 13-nation OPEC countries will try to hammer out production quotas and prices for 1988 at this week's meeting.

Total OPEC output in November was some 18.35 million barrels per day (b/d), compared with a self-imposed ceiling of 16.6 million b/d, a Reuter survey showed.

In Baghdad, Iraq on Tuesday demanded that OPEC give it an oil export quota equal to that of its Gulf war for Iran, and said it

would otherwise not be able to abide by an allocation.

Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi told the Iraqi News Agency on his departure to attend the OPEC meeting in Vienna:

"Our position, based on granting similar quotas for Iraq and Iran, remains the same ... and any violation for this would force Iraq not to abide by OPEC's quota."

Mr. Chalabi called on OPEC to "take a serious attitude to conform to the price violations by the Iranian regime." He has accused Tehran of selling its oil at \$3 a barrel below the formal OPEC price of \$18 and said the meeting would discuss the issue.

Iraq produces nearly three million b/d, almost twice its OPEC quota, and could reach four million b/d with the completion of a new pipeline through Saudi Arabia in 1989.

Last December, OPEC allocated output quotas of 1.5 million b/d for Iraq and 2.36 million b/d for Iran. Baghdad rejected the quota and insisted on one similar to Tehran's.

Mr. Chalabi told a parliamentary meeting on Sunday that Iraq's oil production reached 2.83 million b/d in November, compared with 1.8 million b/d for the same month last year.

Irqi oil exploration chief Hashem Al Kharsan said the same day that the country had

raised the estimate of its fixed oil reserves by 56 billion barrels to 100 billion barrels.

In Kuwait, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Khalil Al Sabah said Kuwait will not seek an increase in its oil output quota in Wednesday's OPEC meeting.

"It is not the time for demanding increases in quotas but for defending the prices," he said in an interview with Al Anba'a newspaper on Tuesday.

"Kuwait will not demand an increase in its oil quota unless other members, who have reasons less (justified) than ours, demand so," he was quoted as saying.

He added that an OPEC study showed it was in Kuwait's right to seek a bigger quota.

Kuwait's OPEC imposed quota is 96,000 b/d, but the country was estimated in a Reuter survey to be producing around 1.2 million b/d in November.

Saudi Arabia, backed by other Gulf OPEC members — Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Iraq — says it wants to keep OPEC's official price unchanged. "We are facing problem in defending the \$18 a barrel and there are discounts of up to \$3... thus it is unimaginable to speak about an adjustment or increasing oil prices," Sheikh Ali was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

U.S. banks may report big drop in profits

WASHINGTON (USA) — U.S. banks had record high earnings in the third quarter of this year, but their profitability for all of 1987 may be lower than for any year since 1934, during the depths of the Great Depression, according to a federal regulatory agency.

The approximately 14,000 commercial banks in the United States earned \$5,800 million in the three months ended Sept. 30,

which was \$500 million more than the previous record set in the first quarter of this year, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) reported Monday.

In between these two record highs, however, came a record quarter loss of \$10,800 million. That was caused by the country's largest banks dumping \$21,200 million into their reserves to meet federal requirements to cover

EC adopts liberalisation plan for airlines

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The European Community (EC) on Monday adopted a modest but long-awaited plan to lower air fares and open European air routes to more competition.

Under the plan, adopted by the 12 EC transport ministers, the group-like deals between EC governments and their flagship air carriers will be broken up starting Jan. 1, and Europe's skies will be opened to new carriers and more routes.

The 72 other banks with assets over \$5,000 million increased their net income 13 per cent over last year's comparable quarter, with those reporting increases outnumbering those reporting decreases by 3 to 1.

He repeated his forecast of about 200 bank failures this year, another record since 1934. His agency, which insures deposits in banks and takes over debt-ridden institutions, expects that number of failures to decline somewhat next year but not as much as previously believed.

"The economy in the southwest is not improving," Mr. Seidman said in explaining the more pessimistic outlook. He said that falling oil prices in such produc-

routes.

The package confirms many practices already adopted by scheduled airlines, but also broadens the use of discount and deep-discount fares.

It would open existing routes to more airlines and create new routes, especially between regional airports.

The deregulation scheme was grounded last June by Spain's unexpected objection to the listing of the Gibraltar airfield as a British regional facility.

Spain threatened to veto the measure, saying it would undermine its claim to the long-disputed territory. Last week, Britain and Spain agreed to exclude the one-way Gibraltar airport from the deregulation package.

The package is to be in effect for three years. After that, proposals are to be made for further steps to reduce Europe's air fares, which have long been higher than those on similar U.S.

off-peak flights.

The deregulation plan, the official said, will open up "vast new route network" and inject more competition on existing routes.

The plan, however, is riddled with exceptions and limitations.

For example, all Greek and all but two Danish airports are exempt for three years from provisions liberalising routes from central to regional airports.

Six Italian airports which handle much of the passenger traffic in Italy are exempt, as are eight Spanish airports.

Numerous restrictions on discount and deep-discount fares will continue making cheaper flights unavailable to businessmen, the most frequent air travellers.

Mr. Sutherland said, however, "it's better to move this way than the confrontational way which would take longer."

Dollar edges down but shares trade higher

LONDON (R) — Shares rallied but the dollar edged lower on Tuesday as dealers looked to U.S. trade figures due out on Thursday for an indication of where the world's turbulent financial markets might head next.

The dollar slipped about a quarter of a penny to trade around 1,6675 West German marks, but was steady at 132.75 Japanese yen and 1,3625 Swiss francs and \$1.7970 to the British pound sterling.

Gold was fixed in London on Tuesday morning at \$483 an ounce, up \$1.85 from Monday's afternoon setting.

London shares rose 2.6 per cent, with the benchmark FTSE 100 share index up 42.1 points to

a morning high of 1,640.1. In Tokyo, the world's largest market, stocks rose 1.6 per cent.

"The rise in America and Tokyo has helped give people a bit of confidence, but worries about the dollar are a brake on enthusiasm," said a Frankfurt share dealer.

The key test, dealers in both currency and stock markets said,

would be the size of the October trade deficit the United States reports on Thursday. The U.S. announced on Oct. 14 of a bigger than expected excess of imports over exports for the month of August helped set off the global stock market crash.

Investors worried then, and worry now, that a big trade gap will force the dollar down.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1,796/70	U.S. dollars	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1,309/3100	Canadian dollar	West German marks
	1,667/80	West German marks	Dutch guilders
	1,875/161	Dutch guilders	Swiss francs
	1,362/737	Swiss francs	Belgian francs
	34,82/85	Belgian francs	French francs
	5,651/035	French francs	Italian lire
	1228/1229	Italian lire	Japanese yen
	132,70/80	Japanese yen	Swedish crowns
	6,030/050	Swedish crowns	Norwegian crowns
	6,460/050	Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	483.00/483.50	Danish crowns	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — U.K. share prices stood firm in late trading with investors taking heart from a firmer opening on Wall Street Tuesday afternoon, but the bulk of the gains came after a "dawn raid" on Biotoil shares by an as yet unknown buyer, dealers said.

Of the stake build-up in Biotoil, one leading broker said, "it's encouraging to see someone taking a view on this market and backing it up with a cash injection on this scale."

Biotoil shares stood a net 86p higher at 271 in late trading after touching a quoted peak of 300p during the early stake build-up. Over 185 million Biotoil shares changed hands Tuesday.

At 1530 GMT, the FTSE 100 was a net 24.3 points up to 1,622.5 after a high of 1,640.1 at 0926 GMT. Dealers noted light retail profit-taking in late trading as Wall Street pared its early 15-point gain in nervous trading conditions.

At 1500 GMT, Tuesday's volume stood at 551 million shares which is well above the recent low levels. Dealers speculated the increase in volume could be short-lived because it probably only came about due to the strong buying in Biotoil.

Canada, U.S. resolve differences over trade pact

TORONTO (AP) — Canada and the United States on Monday finally resolved their differences over a comprehensive free-trade treaty to take effect Jan. 1, 1989.

The Canadians also announced a partial breakthrough with Washington in a dispute over control of the northwest passage through the Arctic.

The free-trade pact was initiated Oct. 4 in Washington after 16 months of negotiations, but both sides sought modifications in the legal text before the 1,000-page document is signed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

Weeks of haggling resulted in deadlock until the talks were elevated to a higher level last week with the participation of Mr. Mulroney's chief of staff, Mr. Derek Burney, and U.S. deputy trade and treasury secretaries.

The officials spent more than 30 hours in an Ottawa office block over the weekend and finally emerged early Monday to announce agreement.

"What remains to be done is to do the usual routine proofreading and checking, and we plan to initial the agreement within the next 48 hours," chief Canadian negotiator told reporters.

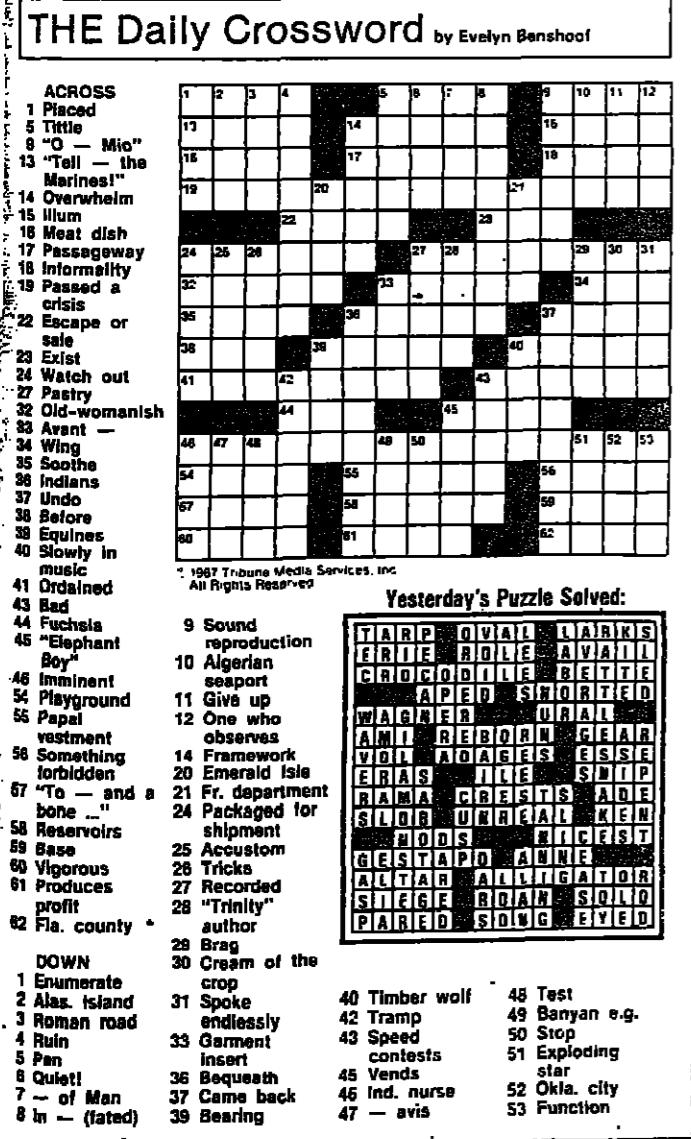
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword



Commuter jet crash kills 44 in southern California

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A four-engine commuter jet crashed about 320 kilometres south of San Francisco on Monday, and all 44 passengers and crew were feared killed, an airline spokesman said.

Pacific Southwest Airlines (PSA) Flight 1771, which left Los Angeles at 6:30 p.m. est (1030 GMT) on a flight to San Francisco, disappeared from radar screens and lost radio contact with radio controllers in the vicinity of Paso Robles, a small community midway between the two cities.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said it had an unconfirmed report that the pilot reported gunshots in the cabin shortly before the crash.

Mike Doering, a spokesman at PSA corporate headquarters in San Diego, said the plane carried 39 passengers and a crew of five.

"There are no reported survivors and no indication as to the cause of the crash," he said.

A Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) spokesman in Los Angeles said the bureau's disaster squad had been called in to investigate the crash because of the report the pilot had radioed hearing gunshots in the passenger compartment.

"The squad will investigate specifically whether the crash was caused by criminal activity,"

spokesman Fred Reagan said.

Officials said the plane crashed in hilly terrain about 18 kilometres west of the small community of Templeton and 22 kilometres south of Paso Robles.

Witnesses said the craft appeared to nosedive just before it struck the ground and scattered pieces across the countryside.

"There was not even any significant parts of bodies," said Jack Strauss, one of the first to reach the scene. "It was just scattered everywhere."

A spokesman for the California Highway Patrol flew over the wreckage shortly after the crash and reported the plane had shattered into "itty bitty pieces."

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) spokesman Fred Far-
rar said in Washington the aircraft was flying at 22,000 feet (6,700 metres) when it dis-
appeared from radar screens.

The plane was a British-made BAE 146. Doering said it was the second fatal crash in the airline's 39-year history.

PSA was recently taken over by USAIR and serves 29 cities in six Western states and Mexico.

Ershad to free detained opponents soon

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad, seeking reconciliation with opponents trying to topple him, said he would end a state of emergency and free his detained rivals soon.

He made the pledge on Monday, a day after he dissolved parliament to pave the way for fresh elections.

Gen. Ershad declared a state of emergency Nov. 27 to thwart a month-long opposition campaign aimed at forcing his resignation.

"The emergency will not stay a minute longer than necessary," Gen. Ershad told a meeting of

Bangladesh's newspaper editors on Monday night.

He said he would soon release the main opposition leaders, Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and Bangladesh Nationalist Party Chairman Begum Khaleda Zia, from house arrest.

"I hope the steps I have taken will create an atmosphere where we all can bury our acrimonies and work towards establishing democracy," he said.

Gen. Ershad has already freed 13 detained politicians in order to create conditions for talks with the opposition. Home (interior) Minister Abdul Matin said.

Paper reports war crimes documents missing from U.N.

NEW YORK (AP) — More than 400 files of the United Nations War Crimes Commission are missing from the archives of the U.N. Headquarters, the New York Post reported Tuesday.

Of the 8,100 recently unsealed files, 433 have disappeared, the U.N. archives director, Alf Erlandson, told the newspaper.

Israeli officials, involved with the archives on a daily basis since war crimes allegations against former U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim surfaced last year, reportedly were stunned by the news.

Some of the records, particularly on the reel of microfilm containing Yugoslavia's Waldheim file, were missing in blocks of up to six consecutive documents, the Post said.

"It's very, very difficult to give any real explanation," said Mr. Erlandson, who suggested the material must have disappeared when the records were filed in the late 1980s.

Mr. Erlandson told the newspaper officials first learned files were missing in the summer of 1986 when they began microfilm-

ing the aging records.

The U.N. War Crimes Commission compiled files after World War II of both facts and allegations of war crimes. They were unsealed earlier this fall, made available to government agencies that ask to see them.

Meanwhile, Austria asked the U.S. government Monday for clarification of its reasons for barring Austrian President Kurt Waldheim from entering the United States, a diplomatic source said.

Austria specifically wished to know whether Dr. Waldheim was being barred because of charges that he took an active role in World War II persecutions or merely because he was in the vicinity of such activities, the source said.

Austrian Ambassador Friedrich Hoess gave a note to Deputy Assistant Secretary of State William Bodle Jr. calling attention to contradictory U.S. versions of the action, said the informant, who spoke on condition of being identified only as a source close to the Austrian embassy.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WHICH SUIT?

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ A J 9 4 3 2

♦ 6 4

♦ Q 7

♦ A 3 2

WEST

♦ Q 8 7 6

♦ K 5

♦ A Q 2

♦ J 10 9 8

♦ 6 5 4 3

♦ 6 5

♦ Q J 4

EAST

♦ 10

♦ K 9 5

♦ A K 2

♦ K 10 9 8 7

SOUTH

♦ 10

♦ K 9 5

♦ A K 2

♦ K 10 9 8 7

THE BIDDING:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass

3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

The obvious suit to develop first is not necessarily the right suit. This hand, constructed by Eddie Kantar, is an object lesson.

Note North's rebid. Since two spades was retrogressive he chose the jump rebid, and South had no where to go other than three no trump.

After the lead of the jack of diamonds, your first choice is to count your tricks. You start with six top

tricks, so you have to develop three more. Which suit are you going to tackle first?

If your answer is the club suit, you must have miscounted. At best, you can develop two extra tricks in clubs (barring Q-J bare), and that will still leave you a trick short. Spades offers a much better chance.

That also tells you where to win the first trick. To develop and bring in the long spades, you need as many entries as possible to dummy. So win the first trick in hand and lead the ten of spades. Since you expect to surrender at least two tricks in the suit, you must find a 4-2 split.

If West covers, win and drive out the remaining honor. As the cards lie, he will play low. You do the same from dummy, and East's king wins. Let's presume East wins and returns a diamond. Win on the table, cash the ace of spades and continue with the jack. Regardless of what the defenders do, your contract is assured since the ace of clubs is still on the board as an entry. By tackling spades, you have increased your black-suit tricks to six. Had you played on clubs, you would have realized only five.

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Nicaragua rejects rebel truce proposal

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — President Daniel Ortega said Monday a year-end holiday ceasefire was "impossible" because the U.S.-supported contra rebels refused to accept an earlier call to lay down their arms.

A spokesman for the San Luis

Obispo County sheriff's office said the rescue attempt was hampered by the rugged terrain and darkness.

Linda Williams, a spokeswoman for the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), said that, according to unconfirmed reports, both radio and radar contact with the plane were lost about the same time.

She said a three-member NTSB team was despatched from Los Angeles to the crash scene and would be joined by a larger group of investigators from Washington.

Gene Katz, a private pilot, said he was heading for Los Angeles in his small plane when he overheard the pilot of the doomed plane conversing with air traffic controllers.

"The PSA pilot ... said he had an emergency, there was gunfire, and he was squawking in 'seven-seven-zero-zero,' which is a special code for emergencies," Katz said.

"At the request of Roman Catholic Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo, the contras on Monday declared a 36-hour unilateral truce for celebrations of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary.

There was no immediate word on whether fighting had stopped after the ceasefire took effect at 1800 GMT Monday.

While addressing a world leaders conference Monday, Mr. Ortega backed down from an earlier position and said future ceasefire talks could be held in the region.

Last week, indirect talks between the government and the rebels were held in the Dominican Republic, a Caribbean nation, because Mr. Ortega had said it would violate the spirit of the regional peace plan adopted on Aug. 7 to hold the negotiations in another Central American country.

There was no immediate response by his office or the Defense Ministry to the contra ceasefire announced in Miami, Florida, by rebel leader Adolfo Calero, one of six members of the directorate of the contra umbrella organisation called the Nicaraguan Resistance.

"We are asking the president to resign," opposition leader K.M. Obaidur Rahman said.

"Once he is out, everything will come in perfect line, including a fresh election," said Mr. Rahman, secretary-general of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

9 killed in Australian high-rise horror

MELBOURNE (R) — A man armed with a high-powered rifle slaughtered eight people in a high-rise office block on Tuesday before falling to his death from a 10th-story window.

Police said a 22-year-old man stalked several floors of the building in Melbourne's financial and legal district, firing indiscriminately with military ammunition.

Nine people, including the gunman whose bloody corpse lay on the sidewalk, were confirmed dead on Tuesday. Police were still searching the 19-storey building.

A further five people were wounded, one seriously.

"It's nine dead at this stage. We're still doing a head count," one policeman said at the scene of the city's second mass shooting in four months.

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